



Uniformed Services University

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News Release

USU celebrates 25th commencement May 15

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences will be celebrating and commemorating its 25th graduating class this year. Commencement 2004 will be held from 11 a.m. to about 1:30 p.m. May 15 at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall, 18th and D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

During the ceremony, 168 doctor of medicine, 25 master of science in nursing and 35 graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences will be conferred. A commemorative coin will also be given out to the graduates, in recognition of USU's worldwide reputation of providing quality military medical education and research for the last 25 years.

The last active duty member of the charter class, U.S. Navy Capt. Sandra Yerkes, MC, deputy to the chief of the Navy Medical Corps, will attend the ceremony. Captain Yerkes, along with 28 classmates, received the doctor of medicine degree during the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine's first commencement in 1980.

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. It has

provided the country with more than 3,000 outstanding military and public health physicians, scientists and health care practitioners.

USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiological methods and preventive medicine.